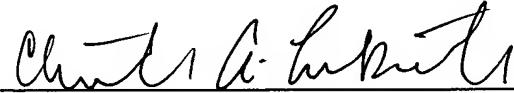


R E M A R K S

Applicant hereby amends the dependency of Claim 9, in order to further the prosecution of the present application and Applicant's business interests. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the original, similar, or broader claims in one or more future application(s). This amendment does not introduce new matter and is not intended to narrow the scope of any of the claims within the meaning of *Festo*.¹ Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect.

Dated: February 26, 2004



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¹ *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1066, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).